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Over 200 CIA documents missing

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 200 "Top-secret" and "Secret" documents which the CIA turned over to the House intelligence committee are missing, according to a letter written by an aide to CIA director George Bush.

The documents cover such sensitive subjects as the CIA budget, strategic arms limitation, the 1974 coup in Portugal, the agency's use of business firms for cover and the detailing of CIA personnel to other government agencies, CIA aide Mitchell Rogovin said in a Feb. 27 letter to committee chairman Otis G. Pike, D-N.Y.

Of a total 232 documents missing, 189 were classified Top Secret, according to the letter. Some of them were listed as "Top Secret-Codeword," which an agency spokesman said further restricts the number of people with access to the material.

Pike discounted the possibility of theft, saying the documents probably had been turned over to the National Archives, destroyed, or returned to another agency by mistake.

In a letter sent Monday to Bush, Pike asked for more specific information about the documents, such as when and to whom they were given. He also promised that "I will certainly do what I can to help you find them."

The House committee went out of business last month after the full House voted not to publicly release the panel's final report on its investigation of U.S. intelligence agencies. The House Ethics Committee has undertaken an investigation into the leak of that report to CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr.

According to Bush's letter, the documents turned up missing during a Feb. 21 inventory of the committee files conducted at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., in the presence of a